

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 01685 231612Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 L-03
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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3094
INFO ERDA WASHINGTON
ERDA GERMANTOWN

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 01685

STATE PASS TO U.S.NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR J. LAFLEUR

ERDA PASS TO J. VANDERRYN,AIA

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS:TECH,EEC
SUBJECT: US REPRESENTATION ON EEC FAST REACTOR EXPORT GROUP AND
POSSIBLE ASSOCIATION WITH EEC SAFETY WORKING GROUP

REF: STATE 03409

1. BRUSSELS ERDA REP. MET WITH COGNIZAN EC OFFICIALS ON
SUBJECT WORKING GROUP, TO OBTAIN FULLER BACKGROUND INFORMATION.
THE FAST REACTOR COORDINATING COMMITTEE (FRCC) HAS GIVEN
PROVISIONAL GREEN LIGHT FOR U.S. PARTICIPATION,BUT ONLY
FOR A SPECIFIC PART OF THE COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND AS
NOTED IN REFTEL, UPON FORMAL REQUEST FROM U.S.MISSION.

2. THE SPECIFIC PART AGREED TO BY FRCC WAS FOR THE
COMPARATIVE CALCULATIONS OF WHOLE CORE ACCIDENT CODES WHICH
IS BUT ONE TASK OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON WHOLE CORE ACCIDENTS
CODES (WAC). FULL U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THIS EXPERT GROUP
WAS NOT CONSIDERED BY THE FRCC. NOR,AS NOTED IN REFTEL,
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WAS U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE PARENT SAFETY WORKING GROUP
CONSIDERED.

3. EC OFFICIALS (DIBACCI AND VINCK) SUGGEST THAT U.S.
FORMAL REQUEST BE LIMITED AT THIS TIME TO PARTICIPATION
ONLY IN THE SPECIFIC TASK OF THE EXPORT GROUP ON WHOLE
CORE ACCIDENTS DEALING WITH COMPARATIVE CALCULATIONS.

TO INITIALLY ASK FOR MORE WOULD REQUIRE RETURNING TO THE FRCC FOR CONSIDERATION, WHICH COULD DELAY U.S. INVOLVEMENT.

4. PROTECTION OF EUROPEAN FAST REACTOR DATA ONCE IN THE HANDS OF U.S. APPEARED TO BE THE PRINCIPAL CAUSE FOR HESITATION ON ACCEPTING FULL U.S. PARTICIPATION. EVEN FOR THE COMPARATIVE CALCULATION TASK, WE NEED TO PROVIDE ASSURANCE THAT DATA WE OBTAIN FROM EC CAN AND WILL BE PROTECTED FROM PUBLIC RELEASE.

5. PROPER CHARACTERIZATION OF U.S. PARTICIPATION WAS ALSO A MATTER OF CONCERN TO EC OFFICIALS. THEY ADVISE THAT WE SHOULD NOT REQUEST "MEMBERSHIP" IN ANY OF THREE GROUPS. NOR, THEY SUGGEST, SHOULD THE U.S. PARTICIPANT BE IDENTIFIED AS THE U.S. "REPRESENTATIVE." THEY SUGGEST THE TITLE "U.S. EXPERT" AND THAT U.S. ROLE BE ONE OF "ACTIVE OBSERVER," IN THE SAME WAY THAT SWEDEN

HAS RECENTLY BEEN ACCEPTED ON A LIGHT WATER REACTOR EC WORKING GROUP.

6. CONSIDERING THE ABOVE, MISSION SUGGESTS FOLLOWING LANGUAGE FOR FORMAL REQUEST TO EC.
BEGIN QUOTE: THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, THROUGH THE FAST REACTOR COORDINATING COMMITTEE, ARE ENGAGED IN IMPORTANT WORK RELATED TO THE SAFETY OF FAST REACTORS. IN PARTICULAR, WE ARE AWARE OF A TASK BEING CONDUCTED BY THE EXPERT GROUP ON WHOLE CORE ACCIDENTS (WAS) THAT INVOLVES COMPARATIVE CALCULATIONS OF ASSUMED ACCIDENTS
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USING MEMBER STATE CODES. WE ARE VERY INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE WORK OF THE WAC ON THIS TASK AND THIS LETTER CONSTITUTES A FORMAL REQUEST FOR SUCH PARTICIPATION.

WE ENVISION U.S. PARTICIPATION TO BE AS AN ACTIVE OBSERVER. THE DESIGNATED U.S. EXPERT WOULD PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE GROUP'S EFFORT BUT WOULD NOT BE A FORMAL, VOTING MEMBER OF THE GROUP. ANY DATA OBTAINED BY THE U.S. AS A RESULT OF THIS REQUESTED PARTICIPATION CAN AND WILL, WHEN REQUESTED, BE WITHHELD FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE. WE NOMINATE DR. HARRY HUMMEL OF ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY AS THE U.S. EXPERT ON THIS TASK.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN EARLY, FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST. IN ADDITION, WE ARE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING WITH YOU THE FEASIBILITY OF FULLER U.S. ASSOCIATION WITH THE FRCC SAFETY WORKING GROUP, THE PARENT ORGANIZATION OF THE WAC. WE BELIEVE THAT THERE WOULD BE MUTUAL BENEFIT IN CLOSER US/EC COOPERATION IN THIS

IMPORTANT AREA. YOUR VIEWS ON THIS PROPOSAL AND SUGGESTIONS
FOR BRINGING IT ABOUT WOULD BE APPRECIATED
END QUOTE.

7. SINCE THE EXTENT OF U.S. PARTICIPATION DEFINED IN
PROPOSED LETTER IS SOMEWHAT LESS THAN ENVISIONED BY
REFTEL, REQUEST DEPARTMENT CLEARANCE.
MORRIS

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Sent Date: 23-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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